

OPERATIONS

SPECIAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT PLANNING

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY. This instruction implements AFSOC 10-4, Operations Planning. It establishes AFSOC policies and procedures for requesting special operations support missions. This instruction applies to units and agencies requesting AFSOC support for peacetime missions. It does not apply to the Air National Guard or US Air Force Reserve.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This revision incorporates administrative changes; updates terms explained (para 2); updates USCINCSOC/AFSOC mission priorities (para 3); updates procedures for requesting support (para 4); and provides an updated listing of mission priorities (atch 1).

Supersedes AFSOCR 55-8, 1 November 1992.

Certified by: HQ AFSOC/DOO (Col Eugene A. Correll)

OPR: HQ AFSOC/DOOO (Lt Col Roy C. Vaughn, Jr.)

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1. General. Headquarters AFSOC is the single manager for Air Force special operations forces (AFSOF) units. AFSOC provides aircraft for infiltrating, exfiltrating, and resupplying special operations forces (SOF), aerial refueling, psychological operations, and fire support. The unique capabilities of AFSOC forces permit them to be used for other USAF missions during peacetime. These missions are tasked on an established priority basis. The demands for AFSOC support far exceed the capability of the resources assigned to AFSOC. Therefore, it is imperative that using agencies submit support requests on a timely basis.

2. Terms:

2.1. **SO.** Special Operations. Operations conducted by specially trained, equipped, and organized DOD forces against strategic or tactical targets in pursuit of national military, political, economic, or psychological objectives. These operations may be conducted during periods of peace or hostilities. They support conventional operations or are prosecuted independently when the use of conventional forces is either inappropriate or not feasible.

2.2. **SOF.** Special Operations Forces.

2.3. **SOG.** Special Operations Group.

2.4. **SOS.** Special Operations Squadron.

2.5. **SOW.** Special Operations Wing.

3. AFSOC Mission Priorities:

3.1. Mission priorities should coincide with USCINCSOC Air Mission Priority Listing (see atch 1) to simplify the planning process. The projection of planning support requirements for AFSOC assets is based on their respective availability. Availability is that capability remaining after unit training, formal school training, maintenance requirements, and real-world contingencies. Availability is determined by the owning wing commander in coordination with the AFSOC commander and the applicable unified commander for assigned aircraft. The priority listed in USCINCSOC Air Mission Priority Listing (see atch 1) applies to all AFSOC units and to support elements such as weather teams.

3.2. When air support requirements within a specific priority category exceed missions available, additional criteria determines the most effective use of limited assets. Apply the following priority modifiers one at a time and in the order given within each category until the conflict is resolved.

3.2.1. The greatest number of supported troops directly involved with the air operations. This includes forces actually transported or having hands-on training with the aircraft.

3.2.2. The greatest number of supported troops indirectly involved with the air operation. This includes forces that are not actually transported but require training support missions such as cargo airdrops, flares, fire support, resupply, etc.

4. Support Requesting Procedures. Early submission by users enables AFSOC to more efficiently schedule its limited resources for maximum support to the user. Submit all requirements, other than emergency search and rescue and helicopter aerial refuelings, in accordance with the procedures in this section.

4.1. Request for support are normally submitted prior to or at the Joint Air Asset Allocation Conference (JAAAC); refer to USSOCOM Directive 350-2 dated, 17 January 1997. The JAAAC identifies SOF air assets training and operational support capabilities, identifies and prioritizes user requirements, allocates air assets, and conducts initial coordination between supporting and supported unit representatives. Conducted monthly, the JAAAC tasks SOF aviation support for lock-in period of 3 months (Air Tasking Orders) ATO and forecasts for 12 months.

4.2. Agencies or units unable to attend the JAAAC submit requests for support to USSOCOM/SOJ3 with an info copy to HQ AFSOC/DOO. Refer to the priority system on USSOCOM Form 111 (USCINCSOC Air Mission Priority Listing, see atch 1) and this instruction to determine the priority of your request. Complete blocks 1 thru 12 on USSOCOM Form 111. Submit request as early as 12 months prior to mission date.

4.3. HQ AFSOC makes every effort to provide requested support. When HQ AFSOC capabilities are exceeded, the requesting agency is notified immediately.

5. Other Support Requesting Procedures (Not Specified in Section Above):

5.1. Request for the use of aircraft for tests, trial installations, time compliance to technical orders (TCTO) verifications/validations, kit proofing, and other similar requests must be submitted in writing to

HQ AFSOC/DO a minimum of 1month in advance of the requested dates. This allows coordination at the command level and submittal to the group prior to the beginning of their 3 week scheduling cycle. Tasking to the group will be in writing and courtesy copies of the tasking will be provided to the appropriate staff agencies and to the requester.

5.2. Informal coordination is encouraged at all levels, but informal agreement is not a basis for short-cutting the normal scheduling process.

5.3. Exception to the normal request schedule will be considered on a case-by-case basis, but will require strong justification.

STEPHEN R. CONNELLY, Col, USAF
Director, Operations

Attachment:
USCINSOC Air Mission Priority Listing

DISTRIBUTION X:
HQ USAF/XOFU, Wash DC 20330-5054 (2)
HQ USSOCOM/S0J3, MacDill AFB FL 33608-7001 (2)
HQ ACC/DO, Langley AFB VA 23655-5000 (2)
HQ AETC/XOTS, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4325 (2)
HQ AFMC/OS, Wright Patterson AFB OH 45433-5646 (2)

Attachment 1

USCINCSOC Air Mission Priority Listing

A1. JSOTF Training

- 1(a) JRX
- 1(b) Training forces deployed to contingency operations
- 1(c) Rehearsals for pending operations

A2. Joint / Combined Training

- 2(a) JCS Exercises
- 2(b) Theater CINC sponsored exercises
- 2(c) USCINCSOC directed training / events
- 2(d) SOCOM Component CDR directed training

A3. Service and Interoperability Training

- 3(a) JRTC
- 3(b) NTC
- 3(c) USAF Flag Exercises
- 3(d) Bilateral Training
- 3(e) JCET

A4. Institutional Training and SOF School Support

This information is extracted from USSOCOM Directive Number 350-2, dated 17 January 1997.